Marilyn Couri Hay, 82, horsewoman, skier, 'CEO of good works'

By MELANIE CREAMER
Staff Writer

BRIDGTON — Marilyn Couri Hay was so eager to stay on Earth that workers at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland had a hard time finding the family plot.

Marilyn Couri Hay

"She fought like a gladiator," said her oldest son, R. Couri Hay of New York City. "She fought every day, every hour and for every breath. She didn't want to leave her family – her three sons and two grandchildren. She loved life and was eager to get back to Pleasant Mountain to ski, play another 18 holes of golf, and take a canoe down the Saco River."

On Thursday, Hay arrived at the site where his mother will be buried today. Hay laughed and said the hole had been dug in the wrong family plot.

"Mother loved scavenger hunts and games," he said. "She loved Scrabble and always won. This is her last practical joke. She doesn't want to leave."

An hour and 45 minutes later, Hay found his mother's final resting place. She will be buried next to her brother, A. Robert Couri, and her parents.

Mrs. Hay, who died Wednesday at 82, was remembered by her son as a happy, athletic, effervescent and dazzling woman who was generous with her time and volunteered for many nonprofit organizations in Greater Portland.

She volunteered for the American Red Cross and was active in the Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. She volunteered at the animal shelter in Bridgton and the thrift shop at Bridgton Hospital.

"She had a great deal of civic responsibility that she passed on to me," her son said. "I remember, around 6 years old, helping her stuff folders for the Red Cross – her in a black dress and pearls. I remember riding in a little red wagon, delivering gifts to underprivileged kids. We were always going to visit her at the animal shelter. My mother was the CEO of good works. She was very philanthropic-minded. She gave her time and energy to many organizations."

Mrs. Hay also volunteered on the Ski Patrol at Pleasant Mountain, where she lived and taught kids with mental and physical disabilities how to ski. She had two homes at Pleasant Mountain, one on the mountain and the other at the base on Moose Pond.

"She opened the front door and went skiing down the mountain, and charged out the back door with her golf clubs or fishing rod," her son said. "Last summer, she was out on her paddle boat. Mother loved it. In her 60s, she was paragliding over Moose Pond."

She was married to Walter F. W. Hay Jr. for 28 years. He died in May 1977.

"She was a loving and generous mother. She was more of a friend. She'd say, 'Let's go skiing, let's play golf, let's go climb Mount Washington.' She set a great example for us," her son said.

In her early years, Mrs. Hay was an expert equestrian. She began riding when she was about 6. She was a competitive rider and rode a horse named Captain Casson.

Mrs. Hay captured the title of Champion of Maine in a jumping competition and was later one of the youngest female carriage riders in the country.

"She loved that horse so much. It was caught in a fire and died. She never rode again," her son said.

Mrs. Hay had a lifelong interest in horses, and enjoyed watching the races at the Fryeburg Fair.

Hay said his mother lived long enough to take her youngest grandsons, who are 6 and 8 years old, to the fair.

"We were at the track at the Fryeburg Fair last September. Of course, she bet on the winning horse," Hay said.

Mrs. Hay's services will be private.

Staff Writer Melanie Creamer can be contacted at 791-6361 or at:
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PASSAGES

Each day the newsroom selects one obituary and seeks to learn more about the life of a person who has lived and worked in Maine. We look for a person who has made a mark on the community or the person's family and friends in lasting ways. To suggest a person, contact Melanie Creamer on weekdays at 791-6361 or mcreamer@pressherald.com.

To Our Readers

Paid obituaries are published by the advertising department of the Portland Press Herald/ Maine Sunday Telegram.

Complimentary death notices are published under "Services & Visiting Hours."

Jolan L. Smith, 71

NORWAY — Jolan L. Smith, 71, of Norway, was promoted to Glory on July 7, 2009.

Jolan L. Smith

She was born in Berlin, Germany on Dec. 18, 1937, the daughter of Gertruda Baumgart. She attended Heidelberg School of Nursing. She had been employed at Fairchild Semiconductor in Portland and had been a homemaker all of her life. She was a member of the Salvation Army in Old Orchard Beach, a proud member of the home league. She enjoyed working with people and taking care of the sick. She also enjoyed coin collecting with her husband.

She is survived by her husband Daniel Smith of Norway; five stepchildren, Daniel, III, Robert, Evelyn, Mary Kay and Katherine; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, July 13, at 1 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 6 Sixth St., Old Orchard Beach. Interment will be at Blackpoint Cemetery in Scarborough at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Weston-Chandler Funeral Home, 45 Main St., South Paris. Online condolences may be [illegible]

Carlene Julia Jones "Charlie" Banks, 72

SALEM, N.Y. — Carlene Julia Jones "Charlie" Banks, 72, of Salem, N.Y., passed away peacefully at home, on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, following a long illness.

Carlene Julia Jones "Charlie" Banks

She was born in Gardiner, July 24, 1936, to Margaret West and James Neill Jones. Carlene was educated in Standish and Portland schools. Carlene married Oscar W. "Bill" Schoen Jr., in 1954, with whom she had one child, William N. Schoen. They divorced in 1961.

In 1987, Carlene married George Henry Banks, of Salem, N.Y. Charlie enjoyed the role of stepmother to George's four children, Todd, Alison, Kenneth and George. Carlene worked as a teller for numerous banks, a receptionist for an insurance company, a trainer and head waitress for the Red Lobster Restaurants and a CNA Home Health Care Aid.

Carlene enjoyed reading, crafts, flower gardening, her computer, her grandchildren and genealogy research. She volunteered at the Bancroft Public Library in Salem where she transcribed all of the cemetery records.

Her husband, George; both parents; and her brother, Richard N. Jones, predeceased her. She is survived by her son, William "Bill" N. Schoen of Portland, stepchildren Todd Banks and wife Kathleen of Salem, N.Y., Alison Radliff and husband Robert of Stillwater, N.Y., Kenneth Banks and wife Lauren of Unionville, Conn., and George C. Banks of [illegible]

Abbott A. Peare, 94

LIMINGTON — Abbott A. Peare, 94, formerly of Spuce Lane in Limington and also formerly of Standish died on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at the Barron Center in Portland.

Abbott A. Peare

He was born in Rumford on March 5, 1915, the son of Andrew and Marion Berry Peare. After his mother passed away when Abbott was very young, he was raised by aunts both in Rumford and Standish. He attended local schools and married Geneva E. Thorne on Dec. 14, 1933

He proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a Pvt. Rifleman in the 106th Infantry regiment, 27th Division in the Pacific Theatre.

Abbott worked for over 30 years at Blue Seal Feeds in South Windham. He was a long time member of the East Limington Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, gardening, and many other outdoor activities. Above all, he was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Spending time with his family meant most to him.

He was predeceased by his loving wife Geneva; two daughters, Gladys Archer and Ruth Stanhope; as well as a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Surviving are sons Abbott Jr. of Sanford, Malcolm of California, Robert and his wife Glenna of Baldwin, and Keith and his wife Brenda of Westbrook, and a daughter, Nellie and her husband Eldon Taylor of Standish. Also surviving are many; many grandchildren; great-grandchil- [illegible]

Robyn L. Crossman, 39

SOUTH PORTLAND — Robyn Lyn Crossman, 39, of South Portland, passed away Thursday, July 2, 2009.

Robyn L. Crossman

She was born April 21, 1970, in Portland, the beloved daughter of Hurshell A. Crossman Jr. Robyn was a graduate of South Portland High School, class of 1988. She worked for the telephone company for 22 years in various departments and also enjoyed her duties as a union steward.

Robyn's passion was her family. She loved spending time with her children and tried never to miss a baseball game or event. She also enjoyed her dogs, high heel shoes and fishing.

Robyn is survived by her father, Hurshell A. Crossman Jr.; her daughter Zasu White, her son Zachary White, all of South Portland; her aunts and uncles Jeraldyne and Stephen Foss of Scarborough, Donna and Mark Bragdon of Windham; and many cousins. She will be sadly missed by all and lovingly remembered as a great mom, cherished daughter, niece, cousin and loyal friend.

Visiting hours will be held 9-11 a.m., with a service following at 11, Saturday, July 11, at the Hobbs Funeral Home, 230 Cottage Rd., South Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:
The South Portland Police Fire and Rescue
Anthoine Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

REMEMBRANCES

IN MEMORIAM
In Loving Memory Of
HARRY B. CLARK
On His Birthday, July 10th
You're always in our thoughts,
No matter where we go.
Sadly missed and always loved by
Your Son Ronnie, Daughter-in-law Debra
And Children

IN MEMORIAM
In Loving Memory Of

ROGER DEXTER WILLIAMS III
Who Passed Away On July 10, 2007
Sadly missed along life's way
Quietly remembered every day
No longer in our life to share
But in our hearts he's always there.
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Lovingly remembered By,
Mom, Dad, Carolyn, and Kathee

IN MEMORIAM
In Loving Memory Of

RYAN "KINGER" KING